

Aquatic Animal Health Standards Commission  
Report - March 2006

CHAPTER 3.1.8.

INFECTION WITH *PERKINSUS MARINUS*

Article 3.1.8.1.

For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Perkinsus marinus* means infection only with *Perkinsus marinus*.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article 3.1.8.2.

**Susceptible species Scope**

The recommendations in this Chapter apply to ~~For the purposes of the *Aquatic Code*, susceptible species for infection with *Perkinsus marinus* are:~~ Eastern oyster (*Crassostrea virginica*), Pacific oyster (*C. gigas*), Suminoe oyster (*C. ariakensis*), soft shell clam (*Mya arenaria*), Baltic clam (*Macoma balthica*) and hard shell clam (*Mercenaria mercenaria*). These recommendations also apply to any other susceptible species referred to in the *Aquatic Manual* when traded internationally.

Clinical manifestations and disease are mainly observed in *C. virginica*.

Suspected cases, as defined in the *Aquatic Manual*, of infection with *Perkinsus marinus* in species other than those listed in this Article should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Article 3.1.8.3.

**Commodities**

1. When authorising importation or transit of the following *commodities*, *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Perkinsus marinus* related conditions, regardless of the *Perkinsus marinus* status of the exporting country, zone or compartment:
  - a) From the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2., for any purpose:
    - i) commercially-sterile canned or other heat treated products.
  - b) The following *commodities* destined for human consumption from the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. which have been prepared in such a way as to minimise the likelihood of alternative uses:
    - i) chemically preserved products (e.g. smoked, salted, pickled, marinated, etc.);

- ii) non commercially sterile ~~heat-treated~~ products (e.g. ready prepared meals) that have been heat treated in a manner to ensure the inactivation of the parasite.

For the *commodities* referred to in point 1)b), Member Countries should consider introducing internal measures to prevent the *commodity* being used for any purpose other than for human consumption.

2. When authorising importation or transit of the *commodities* of a species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2., other than commodities referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3., *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles 3.1.8.7. to 3.1.8.11. relevant to the *Perkinsus marinus* status of the *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment*.
3. When considering the importation or transit of any other *commodity* from bivalve species not referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. from an *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free of *Perkinsus marinus*, *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Perkinsus marinus* and the potential consequences associated with importation of the *commodity*, prior to a decision. The outcome of this assessment should be made available to the exporting country. The exporting country should be informed of the outcome of this assessment.

#### Article 3.1.8.4.

##### *Perkinsus marinus* free country

A country may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* if it meets the conditions in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a country shares a *zone* or *compartment* with one or more other countries, it can only make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* if all the areas covered by the shared water are declared *Perkinsus marinus* free zones (see Article 3.1.8.5.).

1. A country where none of the susceptible species is ~~species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. are~~ present may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. A country where any species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter 3.1.8. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection with *Perkinsus marinus* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* when:
  - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 3 years; and
  - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

OR

4. A country that has made a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* but in which the disease is detected may not make a self-declaration of freedom from *Perkinsus marinus* again until the following conditions have been met:
  - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
  - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
  - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

In the meantime, one or more areas of the remaining territory may be declared free zones, part of the non-affected area may be declared a free zone provided that they meet the conditions in point 3) of Article 3.1.8.5.

Article 3.1.8.5.

### ***Perkinsus marinus* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *Perkinsus marinus* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *Perkinsus marinus* and declared free by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned, if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in points 1), 2), 3) or 4) below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *Perkinsus marinus* free *zone* or *compartment* if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the *zone* or *compartment*.

1. In a country of unknown status for *Perkinsus marinus*, a *zone* or *compartment* where none of the susceptible species ~~species listed in Article 3.1.8.2. are~~ is present may be declared free

from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years.

OR

2. In a country of unknown status for *Perkinsus marinus*, a *zone* or *compartment* where any species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the *disease* for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years and infection with *Perkinsus marinus* is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

3. A *zone* or *compartment* where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may be declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* when:
  - a) *basic biosecurity conditions* have been met continuously for at least the past 3 years; and
  - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

OR

4. A *zone* previously declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* but in which the disease is detected may not be declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* again until the following conditions have been met:
  - a) on detection of the disease, the affected area was declared an *infected zone* and a *buffer zone* was established; and
  - b) infected populations have been safely destroyed or removed from the *infected zone* by means that minimise the risk of further spread of the disease, and the appropriate *disinfection* procedures (see *Aquatic Manual*) have been completed; and
  - c) *targeted surveillance*, as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, has been in place for at least the past 3 years without detection of *Perkinsus marinus*.

Article 3.1.8.6.

## Maintenance of free status

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* following the provisions of points 1) or 2) of Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5., as relevant, may maintain its status as *Perkinsus marinus* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country, zone or compartment that is declared free from *Perkinsus marinus* following the provisions of point 3) of Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5., as relevant, may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *Perkinsus marinus* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free zones or compartments in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Perkinsus marinus*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of ~~re~~infection.

Article 3.1.8.7.

## Importation of live animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*.

The certificate ~~shall~~ should be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.1.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3.

Article 3.1.8.8.

## Importation of live animals for aquaculture from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*

When importing for *aquaculture*, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply risk mitigation measures such as:

1. the consignment is delivered directly into and held in *quarantine* facilities; and

2. the imported *aquatic animals* are continuously isolated from the local environment; and
3. all effluent and waste material **from the processing** are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus marinus*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3.

Article 3.1.8.9.

**Importation of live animals for processing for human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus***

When importing, for processing for human consumption, *aquatic animals* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

1. the consignment is delivered directly to and held in *quarantine* facilities until processing and/or consumption; and
2. all effluent and waste material **from the processing** are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus marinus*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3.

Article 3.1.8.10.

**Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment free from *Perkinsus marinus***

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. from a country, zone or compartment free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This certificate must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles 3.1.8.4. or 3.1.8.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*.

The certificate **shall should** be in accordance with the Model Certificate in Appendix 6.3.2.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3.

Article 3.1.8.11.

**Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus***

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the species referred to in Article 3.1.8.2. from a

country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Perkinsus marinus*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should assess the risk and apply appropriate risk mitigation measures such as:

- 1) the consignment is delivered directly to and held in biosecure/quarantine facilities for processing to one of the products referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3. or other products authorised by the *Competent Authority*; and
- 2) all effluent and waste material from the processing are treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Perkinsus marinus*.

This Article does not apply to *commodities* referred to in point 1) of Article 3.1.8.3.